Georgetown post #2

E DH File

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[redacted]

January 25, 1978

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your inquiries with the Department of State concerning your daughter [redacted] currently residing in Guyana.

A consular officer from the American Embassy in Georgetown, Guyana, visited the People's Agricultural Temple at Jonestown on January 11. At that time the officer spoke to [redacted] concerning your desire to have [redacted] returned to your custody. [redacted] stated that she considered [redacted] to be her child and under no circumstances would she return [redacted] your custody.

The American Embassy has also approached the appropriate Guyanese authorities concerning your desire to remove [redacted] from her grandmother's custody. The Embassy was informed that under the laws of Guyana only the Guyanese courts have the authority to make legally binding decisions concerning the custody of children physically present in Guyana. Therefore failing a voluntary surrender of [redacted] by her grandmother, your only legal recourse would be to engage a local attorney in Guyana and obtain a custody ruling from the Guyanese courts. I enclose a list of attorneys in Guyana for use should you wish to retain legal counsel.

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Should you decide to seek a court order in Georgetown, the American Embassy will offer all appropriate assistance during the proceedings. It would assist the Embassy to know in advance of any plans you might have to travel to Guyana and also to have copies of any U.S. custody decrees prior to your arrival. If you would notify this office of any plans and send us copies of any pertinent documents, we will be happy to pass these to the Embassy in Guyana.

[redacted]

[redacted] 3/2/87

If you have any further questions please contact Mr. Fred Henneke in our Office of Special Consular Services Tel. (202) 632-3015.

Sincerely

Stephen A. Dobrenchuk
Chief
Emergency and Protection
Services Division

Enclosure

Attorneys List for Guyana.

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